

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016**

Members present: Richard Antonelli, Fred Trapassi, James McNulty, George O'Toole, Esther Picon, Anne Mulready, Sarah Dinklage, Ruth Feder, and Maxine Heywood

Anne Mulready chaired the meeting in Rich Leclerc's absence.

Appointed members present: David Spencer (Leadership Council) and Megan Clingham (Mental Health Advocate)

Statutory members present: none

Ex-officio members present: Denise Achin, (DOE); Colleen Polselli (DOH); Sharon Kernan, Jessica Mowry (EOHHS); Becky Boss, Linda Barovier, Dan Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, Michelle Brophy, Kathy Kushnir, Trisha Suggs, Brenda Amodei, Elizabeth Kretchman (BHDDH), Chris Strnad, Ranny Dougherty (DCYF)

Guests: Lisa Conlan and Alvarado Christian (PSNRI); Dana Parker (NAMI); Jeffrey Hill (RIDOH); Diane Dufresne (Pawtucket PC); Samantha Rosenthal, Stephen Buka (Brown University); Michael Cancilliere (About Families/CEDAR), Senator Josh Miller, Brian Sullivan (Veterans Group - Operation Stand Down RI)

Staff: Jim Dealy

1. Review Minutes (Anne Mulready): The Minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2016 were accepted as presented.

2. Committee Reports (Anne Mulready; Sarah Dinklage): No reports since the last meeting. The Governor has not responded to the letter requesting that the State restore the funding that has been taken from Prevention. Sandra DelSesto questioned whether another letter needs to be forwarded to the Governor. The matter will be reviewed and reported upon at the next meeting on Thursday April 14th.

Transitions Sub-Committee will be meeting immediately following the Governor's Council meeting today. The Committee is working on housing and trying to flesh out the issue of homelessness for youth. Hopefully there will soon be some policy recommendations to make.

3. SEOW Report (Sam Rosenthal): Sam presented an overview of the SEOW Report for 2015, which is being finalized and will be forwarded to the Council when it is done.

The SEOW is produced every two years on behalf of the RI State Epidemiology and Outcomes Workgroup and BHDDH. It identifies areas of need in substance abuse and mental illness in the state and compares RI use with that in the US and the other New England states over time.

Sam's Power Point is included with these minutes. Rhode Island continues to trend significantly higher than the US and the other New England States in many measures of behavioral health need. The SEOW Report identifies significant problems with mental illness, alcohol and drug use, its consequences, treatment effectiveness and unmet treatment needs. Key areas of concern identified in the SEOW are:

- Marijuana, illicit drug use, and drug abuse or dependence
- Racial disparities in substance use
- Drug-related overdose deaths and heroin
- Untreated Alcohol or Drug Abuse or Dependence
- Adult mental illness

These areas of need should be considered for program planning and behavioral health resource allocation.

4. Update from BHDDH (Becky Boss and Michelle Brophy): BHDDH is pursuing a number of grants. It is waiting for the results of its SBIRT application. It will be applying for the Medication Assisted Treatment grant as soon as that is announced. It continues to work towards becoming one of eight national sites for the CCBHO award, which would bring about \$1,000,000,000 in enhanced Medicaid match to develop our service system. It is also looking for better space for the NAFI program.

Michelle Brophy reported that the Governor's Council/BHDDH Block Grant Planning Committee is continuing to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 AM in Room 126. It has three subcommittees, which are looking at the behavioral health needs of specific age populations: 12-17, 18-25 and over 60. A needs assessment, risk and protective factor analysis is being done for each. The product will be a plan that focuses on several prioritized needs of each group and recommends specific evidence-based practices with defined outcomes. The Planning Committee is looking at other priority populations as well: pregnant and parenting substance women who are abusing substances; children; etc., but does not have the resources to staff planning groups for each. The goal of the Planning Committee is to have plans in place for the three groups and any other Block Grant priorities in place by September, which will allow enough time to start the purchasing process, if necessary.

Michelle also announced the hiring of BHDDH's new Medical Director, Dr. Katz.

In response to a question about the Integrated Health Home Contract, Becky said that it isn't done yet because there are still issues to be worked out.

Both the Healthy Transitions and the State Youth Treatment grants are having their SAMHSA technical visits the week of April 4th.

5. Update from EOHHS (Deb Florio): No one was not present to give an update from OHHS.

6. Update from DCYF (Ranny Dougherty/Chris Strnad):

DCYF is moving forward with transitioning functions of the Networks of Care back to the Department. DCYF has developed new internal processes that are being implemented to address the needs of children and youth. The new Central Referral Unit is in place as of 3/14/16 for new referrals and will assume responsibility for all referrals on 4/1/16. There is a large RFP (Request for Proposal) that has been submitted to DOA that will be out soon for home and placement services. All existing contracts have been reviewed to date. The FCCP contract has been extended until December 2016.

There was some discussion again about the number of children who were in out of state placement and the reasons why these children could not be serviced within Rhode Island and what resources weren't available?" Motion was made, seconded, and carried to have this issue explored more thoroughly and to present this to the Governor's Council.

7. Old/New Business (Anne Mulready): Motion was made, seconded and passed to have the draft letter to Governor Raimondo regarding RIPTA's fare hike for seniors and disabled persons approved and sent to the Governor.

Ruth Feder announced that the May is Mental Health month kickoff will occur at the State House on Wednesday, May 4th at noon. A variety of programs related to the promotion of mental health, prevention of mental health, etc. will be represented. In addition, since this year since is the 100th anniversary of the Mental Health Association, the President of the National Mental Health America, will be coming to Rhode Island to be at the kick-off. Immediately following, there will be a forum at which he is going to speak about the state of mental health on the national level. Everyone is invited to attend.

8. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned by vote of the members.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 8:30 A.M.

Barry Hall

Conference Room 126

14 Harrington Road, Cranston, RI 02920

Statutory and Public members, please let Jim Dealy know if you cannot attend

This meeting is open to the public.

If you plan to attend and you require special accommodations to ensure equal participation, please contact Jim Dealy at the Division of Behavioral Healthcare Services at 462-0118.